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Message Text

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64
ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OIC-04 AF-10

ARA-16 NEA-10 DRC-01 /186 W
---------- 081996
R 251814Z MAR 74
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4818
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC
CDR JCRC NKP THAILAND

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, VN
SUBJECT: LAWS OF WAR CONFERENCE-NEW ARTICLE ON ACCOUNTING FOR MISSING AND DEAD IN ARMED CONFLICTS

REF: (A) GENEVA 1701 (NOTAL) (B) STATE 044593 (NOTAL)

1. SINCE CURRENT SESSION OF DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE WILL NOT REACH PROPOSED NEW ARTICLE ON ACCOUNTING FOR MISSING AND DEAD IN ARMED CONFLICTS, INFORMAL WORKING GROUP MET AT USG SUGGESTION MARCH 25 TO DISCUSS SUBSTANCE OF AMENDMENT AND PROCEDURES FOR FURTHER REVIEW
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AND CONSIDERATION OF IT. GROUP WAS CHAIRED BY SIEVERTS

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OF USDEL, WHO STRESSED NON-POLITICAL HUMANITARIAN NATURE OF SUBJECT AND EXPRESSED HOPE PROPOSAL WOULD BE APPROVED AT NEXT SESSION OF LOW CONFERENCE IN 1975.

2. FRG AND UK REPS REAFFIRMED THEIR GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST IN HAVING NEW LANGUAGE ON SUBJECT INCLUDED IN GENEVA CONVENTIONS. FRG REP STRESSED DESIRABILITY OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS RE GRAVES AND TOLD US DELOFF PRIVATELY HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD SETTLE FOR THIS IF COMMUNISTS OBJECT TO PROVISIONS FOR ACCESS TO GRAVES BY RELATIVES (ARTICLE 5 OF DRAFT AMENDMENT, REF (B)). ITALIAN REP WANTED TO CONSULT APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN ROME BUT ASSUMED HIS DELEGATION WOULD BE PREPARED TO CO-SPONSOR AT NEXT SESSION OF CONFERENCE.

3. REPS OF ICRC AND CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY RAISED TECHNICAL QUESTIONS RE SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY OF NEW AMENDMENT IN LIGHT OF PROVISIONS IN EXISTING CONVENTIONS. ICRC REP ALSO THOUGHT AMENDMENT SHOULD INDICATE THAT RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTIES RE GRAVES SHOULD APPLY "AT LEAST AS MUCH AS FOR THEIR OWN CITIZENS," TO AVOID CHARGE THIS WAS WESTERN PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD SET UNREALISTIC STANDARDS FOR LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

4. FINNISH, DANISH, GERMAN, AND OTHER DELEGATES THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR USG TO INITIATE BILATERAL CONTACTS ON SUBJECT WITH WIDE RANGE OF GOVERNMENTS DURING INTERVAL BETWEEN CONFERENCES. FINNISH REP THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO MANY STATES TO HAVE BACKGROUND PAPER WHICH COULD BE CIRCULATED TO APPROPRIATE OFFICES AT HOME. US REP SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD TRY TO DO THIS THROUGH AMERICAN EMBASSIES IN CAPITALS.

5. COMMENT: ATTENDANCE AT WORKING GROUP WAS SMALLER THAN HOPED BECAUSE COMMITTEE II SCHEDULED DRAFTING SESSION AT SAME TIME. THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NO ATTENDANCE FROM LDCS.DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, WAR, MIA, MEETINGS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GENEVA01910
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740064-0175
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740318/aaaaaqya.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DPW
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) GENEVA 1701 (NOTAL) (B) STATE 04, 4593 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 JUL 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAWS OF WAR CONFERENCE-NEW ARTICLE ON ACCOUNTING FOR MISSING AND DEAD IN ARMED CONFLICTS
TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, VN
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Type: TE
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